revision of the constitution of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, the introduction of permanent settlement, and the appointment of a committee to examine the working of the development departments. Four resolutions were carried by the Council, *viz.*, those relating to the reduction of training for undergraduate teachers from two years to one year, the revision of the rules issued under the Arms Regulation, V of 1084, the teaching of spinning as a form of manual training in vernacular schools, and the postponement of the operation of the Civil Courts' Guide recently framed by the High Court with a view to reduce delays in the disposal of suits and introduced at the beginning of the current year. Of these, the Government have already accepted the first and the third resolutions, while they have not yet been able to issue final orders as regards the other two. In respect of several matters covered by the other resolutions also, the Government have, as you would have already noticed, taken action in pursuance of popular wishes. The Standing Finance Committee is consulted in respect of all new schemes and proposals involving fresh expenditure. Besides the six committees referred to in my Address last year, two more committees, composed of official and non-official members including some members of the Council, have, as mentioned already, been constituted to examine the working of the P. W. D. Workshops and the excise policy of the State. The reports of all these bodies, except the Popular Assembly Rules Committee which resigned without submitting its report, and the University Committee and the Excise Committee which have not yet closed their labours, have been received by the Government and orders are being issued on them one after another. I wish to avail myself of this opportunity to convey the acknowledgments of the Government to these committees for the valuable help rendered by them.

65. Among the important Bills now before the Legislative Council, two, *viz.*, the High Court Bill and the Reformatory Schools Bill, are ready for final reading. The former aims *inter alia* at enabling the High Court to inspect subordinate courts without the previous permission of the Government, and it is expected that the new Regulation will help the High Court in securing a better and prompter outturn of work all round. The Reformatory Schools Bill has been framed with a view to further ameliorate the condition of juvenile offenders. The Travancore Majority Bill and the Ezhava Bill will also be soon ripe for final reading. The Majority Bill is intended to fix the age of majority for all purposes at the completion of 18 years. The Ezhava Bill, which is an important piece of social legislation, purports to define and amend the law relating to marriage, succession, partition and family management among Ezhavas. As the necessary provision has been made to safeguard the interests of the Ezhava *tarwads* desiring to be exempted from the operation of the new measure, I think that this Bill, as passed by the Council, ought to meet the legitimate wishes of all sections of the community. Two other social Bills, *viz.*, one to revise the Nair Regulation, I of 1088, and the other to define and amend the law relating to the marriage, succession, partition and family management among Nanjanad Marumakkathaya Vellalas, are now in the hands of Select Committees. Select Committees are also considering, besides the Village Panchayat Bill to which reference has already been made, Bills to re-enact the Civil Procedure Code and to revise the law relating to limitation.

66. Sri Mulam Popular Assembly. As already mentioned, the committee appointed to consider the draft revised rules relating to the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly was unwilling to submit a report within the terms of the reference made to it, and all its members except the President resigned in consequence. The more comprehensive question of the revision of the constitution of the Assembly came up subsequently in November last as a resolution for discussion in the Legislative Council. These discussions and other representations will be carefully considered before final orders are passed. Suffice it to state here that the Government fully realise the great advantages which both they and the public derive from the opportunity which the Assembly affords, once a year, for a direct meeting and a free exchange of ideas between a wider circle of the people's representatives and the head of the administration.

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